

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

Advisory Council Meeting

June 11, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martha Becker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke
<input type="checkbox"/> Gabe Cohen, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Cowell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam John
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Parry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen
<input type="checkbox"/> Helen Spencer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei
<input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Wiley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager, Member At-Large	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant

Guests

Dr. Maxine Hayes, Sam Wan, Alison Pence, Nancy Walton-House, Robin Low, Eddie Abellera, Marta Vega, and Alex O'Reilly, Pat Melgard, Dr. Robert Gross

ADS Staff

Pam Piering, Selina Chow, Margaret Casey, Karen Winston, Linda Wells, Dick Sugiyama, Maureen Linehan, Marcy Kubbs, Georgiana Arnold, and Ozell Bledsoe

United Way Staff

Linda Woodall

Minutes

Timmie Faghin, Chair convened the Advisory Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. She asked everyone attending to introduce themselves. Timmie asked if there were any request for changes to the minutes or the order of the agenda and there were no request for changes. Timmie moved that the May 14, 2004 minutes be approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the May 14, 2004 minutes be approved as submitted.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

Timmie introduced guest speakers **Alison Pence**, Director, The Cross Cultural Health Care Program, **Dr Maxine Hayes**, Washington State Health Officer, and **Sam Wan**, Executive Director, Kin On Health Care.

PROGRAM TOPIC

CULTURAL COMPETENCE: RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

Alison Pence provided an overview and a definition of cultural competence, *“Cultural competence involves recognition and respect for differences among patients in terms of their values, expectations, and experiences with health care, while at the same time recognizing the culture-based practices and dictates of organized medicine, and the values, expectations, and experiences of the providers who practice it. Culturally competent care becomes possible only with the skillful management of the interplay between these elements which make up a medical encounter, and determine the points of access or barrier at the institutional level.”* Cross Cultural Health Care Program. There is a compelling need for cultural competence in order to respond to current and projected demographic changes, eliminate long-standing disparities in health care, improve the quality of health care services, and to enhance workplace environments. Alison provided information on changing demographics as compiled from US Census Bureau data. She concluded by reporting about the mission of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program, which is to serve as a bridge between communities and health care institutions to ensure full access to quality health care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Dr Maxine Hayes provided a definition of health disparity: *“A Health Disparity should be viewed as a chain of events signified by a difference in: 1] environment, 2] access to, utilization of, and quality of care, and 3] health status or a particular health outcome”* Public Health Reports Sept/Oct 2002. Dr. Hayes reported on health disparities from a systems approach including social determinants of health which refer to societal conditions that affect health and that potentially can be altered by informed action, i.e. institutionalized biases, access to services, health behaviors and personal risk factors and stress due to social factors. Dr Hayes also provided information about social environments and health, including greater emphasis on public health interventions that involve communities, with the goal of collectively identifying resources, needs and solutions, and a logic framework for the sociocultural environment determinants such as equity and social justice, societal resources (standard of living-culture and history, social institutions, built environments, political structures, economic systems, and technology) and the physical environment (natural resources). She concluded by reporting on a pathway to action that includes freedom from discrimination, promotion of healthy behaviors, access to health services, reduced stress due to social factors, respect for language and other cultural factors and lower environmental risk.

Sam Wan reported on health disparities in the Asian community including background information, program description and the 2003 demographics of Kin On Health Care Center and Kin On Community Health Care including a skilled nursing facility, home care, personal emergency response system (PERS), caregiver support, home health, and pharmaceutical care. Sam also reported that the Asian community was interested in independent retirement housing. He said that language barriers in accessing health care systems and difficulty communicating with government agencies, doctors and medical professionals resulted in low utilization of preventive health services such as immunization shots, mammograms, pap smears, and prostate screening test.

BUSINESS MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

Joanne Brekke asked for suggestions regarding changes made to the By-Laws or the new Code of Ethics Form. There were no suggestions. Joanne moved that the By-Laws be approved as submitted.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the By-Laws be approved as submitted.

Joanne moved that the new Code of Ethics Form be approved as submitted.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the new Code of Ethics Form be approved as submitted.

Timmie Faghin announced the New Members Orientation will be Friday, June 25th, 12:00 – 1:30, Alaska Building. She asked for volunteers as mentors for the incoming council members. Timmie announced that John Holecek, Suzanne Wiley and Gabe Cohen have already agreed to be mentors. **Ozell Bledsoe** will confirm the New Members Orientation date/time/location and notify members.

NEW BUSINESS

Martha Becker reported the HCTF discussed the Cash and Counseling proposal and raised some objections that were communicated to the funder by Larry Verhei on behalf of the HCTF. Martha asked **Pamela Piering** to clarify the Cash and Counseling proposal. Pam reported that the Cash and Counseling proposal is a Robert Wood Johnson funded proposal (built on a model tested in three states - New Jersey, Florida, and Arkansas) to allow consumers choice in being able to hire personal care services. She reported that the Cash and Counseling model is based on the idea that by providing consumers with a cash benefit in tandem with counseling to help manage their services, they will be able to choose and purchase the necessary services which allows them to choose who provides those services as well as how and when services are provided. Consumers will also be able to purchase services outside of personal care (i.e. transportation, home modifications, assistive devices, and disposable goods) that may increase their independence. Consumers will therefore, have more control over their services, and the

increase in flexibility would reduce unmet needs and improve satisfaction with personal assistance services.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

STATE COUNCIL ON AGING

Joanne Brekke reported that the State Council on Aging meeting discussions focused on the mental health parity bill, developing Region 10 issues and recommendations for legislative session and the budget, and creating priorities such as access to health care, funding an increase for the Senior Citizens Services Act, and enhancing senior independence and home repair. She also announced there will be two public budget development meetings (details not available) and that the Senior Lobby Conference is October 15, 2004.

PLANNING AND ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Selina Chow reported that all City departments have been asked to reduce their budgets for 2005 and departments (including the Human Services Department, ADS) may face deep cuts in services. ADS cannot make final '05 budget decisions until after September '04 when the Mayor issues his proposed 2005 Budget to the City Council. She reported that state and federal funding levels were pretty stable; the State placed a lid on the amount of ADS's carryover dollars; the P & A Committee will make recommendations regarding cuts to the federal and state pot of money; and the allocation recommendations will be issued for public hearings and finalized by the October deadline.

Timmie Faghin asked for agreement that a letter be drafted from the Advisory Council urging City Councilman Richard McIver and the Budget Committee to do everything possible to make sure that funding is maintained for services for the elderly. Martha Becker suggested attaching a list of ADS funded programs to the letter.

Action Taken: It was agreed that a letter be sent to Councilman Richard McIver, Chair and the City Budget Committee urging them to do everything possible to make sure that funding is maintained for services for the elderly.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Don Moreland moved that the Advisory Council approve a letter urging State Legislators from King County to support restoring asset limits to the \$92,760 level for couples receiving Medicaid and who wish to remain in their own home.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council sends a letter to State Legislators from King County urging them to support restoring asset limits to the \$92,760 level for couples receiving Medicaid and who wish to remain in their own home.

Don also reported the next Legislative Forum meeting will be on Thursday, June 24th at 10:00 in the 10th floor conference room.

HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

Martha Becker reported the HCTF discussed the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, the Cash and Counseling proposal, and a statement supporting an increase in the Medically Needy Income Level. Martha also reported the HCTF discussed ways to differentiate HCTF and Outreach & Advocacy reports and they decided that reports should come under the heading of "Healthy Aging".

Martha recommended Advisory Council members support sending a letter to Congressional Legislators urging them to sign on supporting House Bill 4446, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, to reform funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send a letter to Congressional Legislators urging them to sign on supporting House Bill 4446, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, to reform funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Martha recommended the Advisory Council approve a letter to add Advisory Council to the list agencies in support of the Statement Supporting an Increase in the Medically Needy Income Level.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council the Advisory Council approve a letter to add Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services to the list of agencies in support of the Statement Supporting an Increase in the Medically Needy Income Level.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Timmie reported that the Communication Committee will launch its online newsletter, Seniors Digest, starting July 1, 2004.

John Barnett suggested committee reports be submitted at least three days in advance of regular monthly Advisory Council meetings so members have time to review the information and "even more importantly, this method will leave more time for discussion at the meetings." Council members agreed to table this discussion until the July meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pamela Piering reported on the Washington State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) including an announcement the 2004 edition of Healthy Aging Washington publication is now available and has an article and photo of Helen Bradley, W4A Chair and Dr Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer. Pam also reported meeting this week with Christine Gregoire, State Attorney General and will meet next month with King County Executive Ron Sims and Dino Rossi, Republican Candidate for Governor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Program Topic:
PLANNING & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friday, July 9, 2004
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
13th Floor Conference Room
Alaska Building
618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
www.adsadvisorycouncil.org

Larry Low, Secretary _____ Approved 7/02/04